

# THE PETITION

OF THE  
LORDS AND COMMONS,

PRESENTED

To his MAJESTIE by the Earle of Stamford,  
Master Chancellour of the Exchequer, and Master  
Hungerford. April 18. 1643.

TOGETHER,

With his MAJESTIES Answer thereunto,



London, printed for Robert Williamson. 1642.



To the Kings most Excellent Majesty;  
The humble Petition of the Lords and Commons  
assembled in Parliament.

May it please your Majesty,

**Y**Our Majesties most loyall and faithfull Subjects, the Lords and Commons in Parliament have duly considered the Message received from your Majesty, concerning your purpose of going into *Ireland* in your Owne person to prosecute the warre there with the bodies of your English Subjects, leavied, transported, and maintained at their charge: Which You are pleased to propound to us, not as a matter wherein your Majesty desires the advice of Your Parliament, but as firmly resolved on, and forthwith to be put in execution, by granting our Commissions for the leavying of two thousand foot, and two hundred Horse for a Guard for your person when You shall come into that Kingdome: wherein we cannot chuse but with all reverence and humility to your Majesty, observe that you have declined Your great Councell, the Parliament, and varied from the usuall course of your Royall Predecessours, that a businesse of so great importance concerning the peace and safety of all your Subjects, and wherein they have a speciall interest by your Majesties promise, and by those great summes which they have disbursed, and for which they stand ingaged, should be concluded and undertaken without their advice: Whereupon we hold it our duty to declare, That if at this time Your Majesty shall goe into *Ireland*, you will very much endanger the safety of Your Royall person and Kingdome, and of all other States professing the Protestant Religion in Christendome, and make way to the execution of that cruell and bloody Designe of the papists every where to root out and destroy the reformed Religion, as the Irish Papists have in a great part already affected in that Kingdome, and in all likelihood would quickly be attempted in other places, if the consideration of the strength and union of the two Nations of *England* and *Scotland* did not much hinder and discourage the execution of any such Designe. And that we may manifest to your Majesty, the danger and misery which such a journey and enterprize would produce, we present to your Majesty the reasons of this our humble opinion and advice.

1 **Y**Our Royall Person will be subject, not onely to the casualty of War, but to secret practices and Conspiracies, especially Your Majesty committing Your profession to maintaine the Protestant Religion in that Kingdome, which the Papists are generally bound by their vow to extirpate.

2. It

2. It will exceedingly encourage the Rebels, who doe generally professe and declare, that your Majesty doth favour and allow the proceedings, and that this insurrection was undertaken by the Warrant of your Commission; and it will make good their expectation of great advantage by Your Majesties presence at this time of so much distraction in this Kingdome, whereby they may hope we shall be disabled to supply the War there, especially there appearing lesse necessity of your Majesties Journey at this time, by reason of the manifold successes which God hath given against them.

3. It will much hinder and impair the means, whereby this Warre is to be supported, and increase the charge of it, and in both these respects, make it more unsupportable to Your Subject: and this we can confidently affirme, because many of the Adventurers, who have already subscribed, doe upon the knowledge of your Majesties intention, declare their resolution, not to pay in their money; and others very willing to have subscribed, do now professe the contrary.

4. Your Majesties absence must necessarily very much interrupt the proceedings of Parliament, and deprive your Subjects of the benefit of those further Acts of Grace and Justice, which we shall humbly expect from your Majesty, for the establishing of a union, and mutuall confidence betwixt Your Majestic and Your People, and procuring and confirming the prosperity and happinesse of both.

5. It will exceedingly increase the Jealousies and Feares of Your People, and render their doubts more probable, of some force intended by some evill counsels neare Your Majesty, in opposition of the Parliament, and favour of the malignant party of this Kingdome.

6. It will bereave Your Parliament of that advantage, whereby they were induced to undertake this War, upon your Majesties promise that it should be managed by their advice; which cannot be done, if Your Majesty (contrary to their counsels) shall undertake to order and governe it in Your Owne Person.

Upon which and divers other reasons we have resolved, by the full and concurring agreement of both Houses, that we cannot with discharge of our duty consent to any levies, or raising of Souldiers to be made by your Majesty, for this your intended expedition into Ireland, or to the payment of any Army of Souldiers there, but such as shall be employed, and governed according to our advice and direction; and that if such levies shall be made by any Commission of Your Majesty (not agreed to by both Houses of Parliament) wee shall be forced to interpret the same to be raised to the terror of your people, and disturbance of the publike peace, and hold our selves bound, by the lawes of the Kingdome, to apply the Authority of Parliament to suppress the same.

And we do further most humbly declare, That if your Majesty shall by ill counsell be perswaded to go, contrary to this advice of your parliament (which we hope your Majesty will not) we do not in that case hold our selves bound to submit to any Commissioners, which your Majesty shall choose, but do resolve to preserve and govern the Kingdome by the counsell and advise of Parliament for your Majesty and your posteritie, according to our Allegiance, and the Law of the land.

Wherefore we do most humbly pray and advise your Majesty, to desist from this your intended passage into *Ireland*, and from all preparations of men and Armes tending thereunto, and to leave the managing of that war to your Parliament, according to your Majesties promise made unto us, and your Royall Commission granted under your great Seale of *England*, by advice of both Houses; in prosecution whereof (by Gods blessing) we have already made a prosperous entrance by many defeats of the Rebels, whereby they are much weakened and disheartened, and have no probable means of subsistence, if our proceedings shall not be interrupted by this interposition of your Majesties Journey, but that we may hope upon good grounds, that within a short time, without hazard of your Maj. person, and so much dangerous confusion to your Kingdomes, which must needs ensue, if you should proceed in this resolution, we shall be enabled fully to vindicate your Majesties Right and authoritie in that Kingdome, and punish those horrible outrageous cruelties, which have been committed in the murdering and spoiling so many of your Subjects, and bring that Realme to such a conditioun as may be much for the advantage of your Majestie, and this Crowne, the honour of your Government, and contentment of your people: For the better and more speedy effecting whereof, we do againe renew our humble desires of your return to your Parliament; and that you will please to reject all Counsels and apprehensions, which may any way derogate from that faithfulness and Allegiance, which in truth and sinceritie we have alwayes borne and professed to your Majestie, and shall ever make good to the uttermost with our lives and Fortunes.

---

HIS

## MAJESTIES ANSWER

To a Petition presented to Him at *Tork*, April 28. 1642.

by the Earl of *Stamford*, &c. in the Name of both Houses.

Concerning his Message lately sent to them, declaring His Resolution to go into *Ireland*.

**W**E are so troubled and astonished to finde the unexpected reception and misunderstanding of Our Message of the eighth of April concerning Our Irish Journey, that being so much disappointed of

of the approbation and thanks. We looked for to that Declaration; We have great cause to doubt, whether it be in our power to say or do any thing which shall not fall within the like interpretation. But as We have in that Passage called God to witness the sincerity of the profession of Our onely ends for the undertaking that Journey; So We must appeal to all Our god Subjects, and the whole world, whether the Reasons alledged against that Journey be of weight to satisfie Our understanding, or the counsell presented to dissuade Us from it, be full of that duty as is like to prevaile over Our affections.

For Our resolving of so great a Businesse without the Advice of Our Parliament; We must remember how often by Our Passages We made the same offer, if you should advise us therunto: To which you never gave Us the least answer: But in your late Declaration told Us, That ye were not to be satisfied with words: so that we had Reason to conceale you rather avoided (out of regard to Our person) to give Us counsell to run that hazard, then that you disapproved the inclination. And what greater comfort or security can the Protestants of Christendome receive, then by seeing a Protestant King venture and engage his Person for the defence of that profession, and the suppression of Popery, to which we solemnly protested in that Passage, never to grant a toleration, upon what pretence soever, or an abolition of any of the Lawes there in force against the profession of it. And when wee consider the great calamities, and unheard of cruelties Our poor Protestant Subjects in that Kingdome have undergone for the space of six months, the growth and increase of the strength of those barbarous Rebels, and the evident probability of foreign supplies (if they are not speedily suppressed) the very slow succors hitherto sent them from hence; That the Officers of severall Regiments, who have long since bin allowed entertainment from you for that service, have not raised any supply or succor for that Kingdome; That many troops of horse have long lien neer Chester untransported; That the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, on whom We relied principally for the conduct and managing of affairs there, is still in this Kingdome, notwithstanding our earnestnesse expressed that he should repair to his command: and when we consider the many and great scandals raised upon Our self by Report of the Rebels, and not sufficiently discountenanced here notwithstanding so many professions of Ours; and had seen a Book lately Printed by Order of the House of Commons, Entituled; A Remonstrance of divers remarkable Passages concerning the Church and Kingdome of Ireland, wherein some examinations are set down, which (how improbable or impossible soever) may make an impression in the minds of many of Our weak Subjects; And lastly, when we duly weigh the des-

hony



honor which will perpetually lye upon this Kingdom, if full and speedy Relief be not dispatched thither. We could, nor cannot think of a better way to discharge Our duty to Almighty God, for the defense of the true protestant profession, or to manifest Our affection to our three Kingdoms for their preservation, then by engaging Our person in this Expedition, as many of Our Royal Progenitors have done, even in foreign parts, upon causes of lesse importance and Piety, with great Honor to themselves, and advantage to this Kingdom: And therefore We expected at least thanks for such Our Inclination.

For the danger to Our Person, We conceive it necessary and worthy of a King to adventure his life to preserve His Kingdom, neither can it be imagined, that We will sit still, and suffer Our Kingdoms to be lost, and Our good Protestant Subjects to be massacred, without exposing our own Person to the utmost hazard for their Relief & Preservation: Our life, when it was most pleasant, being nothing so precious to Us, as it is, and shall be to govern and preserve Our People with Honor and Justice.

For any encouragement to the Rebels, because of the Reports they raised, We cannot conceive that the Rebels are capable of a greater Terror, then by the presence of their lawfull King in the head of an army to chastise them: Besides, it will be an unspeakable advantage to them, if any reports of theirs could hinder Us from doing any thing which were fit for Us to do, if such reports were not raised: This would quickly teach them, in this jealous age, to prevent by such Reports any other Persons coming against them, whom they had no mind should be so employed.

We marvell that the Adventurers, whose advantage was a principal motive (next the reason before-mentioned) to Us, should so much mistake Our purpose, whose Interest We conceive must be much improved by the Expedition we hope (by Gods blessing) to use in this Service: this being the most probable way for the speedy Conquest of the Rebels: Their Lands are sufficiently secured by Act of Parliament.

We think not Our self kindly used, that the addition of so few men to your forces (for a Guard to Our Person in Ireland) should be thought fit by your refusal: and much more, that having used so many cautions in this matter, both in the smallness of the number, in our having raised none untill your answer: In their being to be raised only near their place of shipping: In their being there to be armed, and that, not till they were ready to be shipped: In the provision, by the Oaths, that none of them should be Papists (all which appears sufficient to destroy all grounds of jealousy of any force intended by them in opposition to the Parliament, or favor to any malignant party) any suspicion should notwithstanding be grounded upon it.

Neither

Neither can it be understood, that when We recommended the managing of that War to you, that We intended to exclude our self, or not to be concerned in your counsels, that if we found any expedient (which in Our conscience or understanding we thought necessary for that great work) we might not put in practice. We look upon you as our great counsell, whose advice We always have and will (with great regard and deliberation) weigh and consider: But We look upon our self, as neither deprived of our understanding, or debested of any right we had, if there were no Parliament sitting. We called you together by our own Will, it and authority (without which you could not have met, to give Us faithful Counsel about our great affairs: But we resigned not up our own Interest and Freedom. We never subjected our self to you; absolute Determination. We have always weighed your Counsels, as proceeding from a Body entrusted by Us: and when We have dissented from you, We have returned you the Reasons, which have prevailed with our conscience and understanding, with that Candor as a Prince should use towards his subjects, and that affection, which a Father can expresse to his children. What application hath bin used to rectifie our understanding by Reasons, or what Motives have bin given to perswade Our affections, we leave all the world to judge. And then we must tell you, howsoever a Major part may bind you in matter of opinion, we hold our self (and We are sure the Law and the constitution of the Kingdom hath always held the same) as free to dissent (till our reason be convinced for the generall good) as if you delivered no opinion.

For our Journey it self, the circumstances of your Petition are such as we know not well what answer to return, or whether we were best to give any. That part which pretends to carry reason with it, doth noway satisfie Us: The other, which is rather reprehension and menace, then advice, cannot stagger Us. Our answer therefore is, that we shall be very glad to find the work of Ireland so easie as you seem to think it; which did not so appear by any thing known to Us, when we sent our Message. And though we will never refuse, or be unwilling to venture our person for the good and safety of our people; we are not so weary of Our life; as to hazard it impertinently. And therefore since you seeme to have received advertisements of some late and great successes in that Kingdom, we will stay some time to see the event of those, and not pursue this resolution, till we have given you a second notice. But if we find the miserable condition of our poor subjects of that Kingdom, be not speedily relieved, We will with Gods assistance visit them with success, as our particular credit & interest can supply us with, if you refuse to joyn with us. And we doubt not but the Leavies we shall make, in which we will observe punctually the former, and all other Cautions, as may best prevent all Fears and Jealousies, and to use no power but what is Legall, will be so much to the

The satisfaction of Our Subjects, as no person will dare presume to  
our commands, and if they should; at their perill. In the which we  
hope our sollicituness, so remarkable to that service, that we have  
to all the world, and that all scandalls laid on us in that behalf, are  
clearly wiped away. We were so carefull that our journey into  
should not interrupt the Proceedings of Parliament, nor deprive our  
jects of any Acts of justice, or further Acts of grace, for the reall benefit  
of our People; That we made a free offer of leaving such power behind  
as should not only be necessary for th: Peace and safety of the Kingdom;  
but fully provide for the happy Progresse of the Parliament. And there-  
fore we cannot but wonder, since such Power hath bin always left here  
by Commission for the Government of th's Kingdom, when our Proge-  
nitors have bin out of the same during the setting of Parliaments; and  
since your selves desired that such a Power might be left here by us, at  
our last going into Scotland, what Law of the Land have you now found  
to dispence with you, from submitting to such authority legally derived  
from Us in our absence, and to enoble you to govern this Kingdome by  
your own meer authority; For our return toward London, we have gi-  
ven you so full an answer in our late Declaration, and in answer to your  
Petition presented to Us at York the 26, of March last, that wee know  
not what to adde, if you will not provide for our security with you, nor a-  
gize to remove another Place, where there may not be the same Danger  
to Us. We expected that (since we have bin so particular in the Causes  
and Grounds of our Fears) you should have sent Us word, that you had  
published such Declarations against future Tumults, and unlawfull  
assemblies, and taken such courses for the suppressing of seditious Ser-  
mons and Pamphlets, that our fears of that kind might be laid aside, be-  
fore you should presse Our Return.

To conclude, We could wish that you would (with the same stric-  
tneesse and severitie) weigh and examine your Messages and Expressions  
to Us, as you do those you receive from Us: For we are very confi-  
dent, that if you examine Our Rights and priviledges, by what Our  
Predecessors have enjoyed; and your own addresses, by the usuall cour-  
ses of your own Ancestors, ye will find many Expressions in this Pe-  
tition, warranted only by your own authority, which indeed we forbear  
to take notice of, or to give answer to, lest We should be tempted (in a  
just indignation to expresse a greater passion, then We are yet willing  
to put on. God in his good time (We hope) will so inform the hearts of  
all Our Subjects, that We shall recover from the mischief and danger  
of this Distemper; On whose good pleasure We will wait with all  
patience and humillitie.

FINIS.



